Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

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IOWA BOARD OF MEDICINE
MARK BOWDEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2015
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DES MOINES, IA – The Iowa Board of Medicine today (October 16, 2015) released the following statement:

The Iowa Board of Medicine received notice on October 7, 2015, of the dismissal of the remaining claims [1] related to the challenge of Iowa Administrative Code 653—653-13.10 (standards of practice for physicians who prescribe or administer abortion inducing drugs to terminate a pregnancy -- medical abortion). The Board reminds Iowa physicians using telemedicine they will be held to the same standards of care and professional ethics as physicians using traditional in-person medical care.

The Board earlier this year adopted Iowa Administrative Code 653—653-13.11, which sets forth comprehensive standards of practice for physicians who use telemedicine in any setting in Iowa. This new administrative rule, effective April 3, 2015, requires that physicians:

- Establish a valid professional relationship with the patient
- Interview the patient to collect relevant medical history
- Perform an in-person physical examination of the patient, when medically necessary, to establish an informed diagnosis before proceeding with treatment
- Ensure that any medical services delegated to a nonphysician are performed by persons who are qualified and trained to provide that service
- Ensure that appropriate local medical care is available for the patient following a telemedicine encounter.

The Board believes that all patients, including those served in telemedicine settings, deserve the highest level of care. If practiced safely, telemedicine can provide important benefits to patients, including increased access to health care, expanded utilization of specialty expertise, rapid availability of medical records, and potential cost savings.

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[1] CVCV046429, Planned Parenthood v. Iowa Board of Medicine